

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1       1. A medical capsule comprising:  
2           a) a housing having an interior space with a cargo bay area;  
3           b) a transceiver enclosed within said housing;  
4           c) at least one ultrasonic transducer electrically connected to the transceiver;  
5           d) a power supply enclosed with the housing and electrically connected to the  
6       transceiver; and,  
7           e) a microprocessor unit for data processing and control, said microprocessor being  
8       electrically connected to the transceiver.

1       2. The capsule of Claim 1, further comprising within the cargo bay area a payload  
2       selected from the group consisting of medical diagnostic devices, devices for treating a  
3       medical condition and visualizing apparatus.

1       3. The capsule of Claim 2, wherein the medical diagnostic devices include at least one  
2       microlaboratory device for analyzing body fluids for detecting and/or measuring blood,  
3       mineral, toxins and/or microorganisms.

1       4. The capsule of Claim 3, wherein the microlaboratory device is a microfluidic  
2       device.

1       5. The capsule of Claim 2, wherein the medical diagnostic device includes a  
2       microphone or temperature-measuring device.

1       6. The capsule of Claim 2, wherein the device for treating a medical condition  
2       comprises a medically efficacious material and means responsive to a signal for expelling the  
3       medically efficacious material from the capsule.

1        7. The capsule of Claim 6, wherein the medically efficacious material comprises a  
2 medicament selected from the group consisting of antibiotic, antiviral compounds,  
3 chemotherapeutic agents, nutriments, radioactive isotopes, dyes, tracers, radio-opaque  
4 materials, growth factors, hormones and steroids.

1        8. The capsule of Claim 6, wherein the visualizing apparatus comprises an optical  
2 camera and a light source.

1        9. The capsule of Claim 8, wherein the light source is a LED or a flash lamp.

1        10. The capsule of Claim 1, including an array of ultrasonic transducers to provide  
2 omni-directional coverage operable in the range of from about 5 MHz to about 20 MHz.

1        11. The capsule of Claim 10, wherein at least six ultrasonic transducers are included  
2 in the array.

1        12. The capsule of Claim 1, wherein the housing is configured and dimensioned so as  
2 to be ingestible and/or implantable in a human body.

1        13. The capsule of Claim 2, further comprising a signal interface between the  
2 microprocessor and the payload.

1        14. A system for wireless communication with a transceiver within a living body, the  
2 system comprising:

- 3            a) at least one capsule enclosing at least one omni-directional, two-way ultrasonic  
4 transducer array connected to a transceiver, a power supply, and a microprocessor; and,
- 5            b) means positioned external to the body for transmitting and receiving ultrasonic  
6 signals to and from the capsule.

1           15. The system of Claim 14, wherein the capsule further comprises a payload selected  
2 from the group consisting of medical diagnostic devices, devices for treating a medical  
3 condition and visualizing apparatus.

1           16. The system of Claim 14, further comprising at least two capsules having means  
2 for ultrasonic communication with each other.

1           17. The system of Claim 14, wherein the means external to the body further  
2 comprises means for transmitting radio frequency electromagnetic signals and the system  
3 further comprises a remote monitoring station for receiving said radio frequency  
4 electromagnetic signals.

1           18. The system of Claim 14, wherein the capsule further comprises an ultrasonic  
2 pulse emitter for generating a plurality of ultrasonic imaging pulses and the means positioned  
3 external to the body further comprises means for generating an image from said ultrasonic  
4 imaging pulses.

1           19. A method for medical monitoring of a living body comprising:  
2           a) positioning a capsule within the body, said capsule including enclosing at least one  
3 omni-directional, two-way ultrasonic transducer array connected to a transceiver, a power  
4 supply, and a microprocessor;  
5           b) positioning at least one external transceiver in proximity to an exterior surface of the  
6 body; and,  
7           c) transmitting at least one ultrasonic signal between the at least one external  
8 transceiver and the ultrasonic transducer array in the capsule.

1           20. The method of Claim 19, further comprising the step of measuring a physiological  
2 condition within the body, converting information about said physiological condition into a  
3 data stream, and transmitting said data stream via a signal to a position outside the body.

1           21. The method of Claim 20, wherein the signal is an ultrasonic signal received by the  
2 external transceiver.

1           22. The method of Claim 19, wherein multiple external transceivers are attached to  
2 the exterior surface of the body at spaced apart respective positions.

1           23. The method of Claim 22, wherein the multiple external transceivers provide  
2 continuous tracking of the capsule's position within the body.

1           24. The method of Claim 19, wherein said medical monitoring comprises monitoring  
2 of one or more of heart beat rate, breathing rate, body temperature, pH, or presence of blood,  
3 toxin, microorganisms, minerals or salts.